

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PROJECTS UNITED STATES PROJECTS

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Kristen White; I am the Director of Global Mobilization at California Baptist University. In step with my life's calling to train and equip God's people to go to the ends of the earth, I joined the Office of Spiritual Life Staff in 2005. Although an Oklahoman at heart, before journeying to CBU, I worked on the ministry staff at First Baptist Church in San Francisco and served in East Asia for two years. I now oversee the United States Projects (USP) and International Service Projects (ISP) programs which has had a successful history since 1997. **This past year, CBU sent out 341 participants on 37 teams to 21 countries.**

I understand you must have many questions about our service programs and your son/daughter's potential involvement. Parents want to know what I am doing to ensure the safety of their son or daughter. Unfortunately there is nothing I can do to "ensure" your child's safety. However, I am committed to doing whatever I humanly can to keep your child out of harm's way. As a Southern Baptist university, the Office of Mobilization works very closely with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Since most parental concerns are about international travel, allow me to share more about our partnerships overseas. The IMB is the largest mission sending agency in the world; they have more than 100 years of experience caring for the needs of their 5,000+ missionaries. Each year they send out more than 25,000 volunteers. Aided by the U.S. State Department, the IMB will not knowingly send volunteers into areas where their mission personnel believe there to be danger to those on the field. This is a policy that we uphold and support. Only after thorough research, intense scrutiny, and prayer, does the CBU Executive Council approve domestic and international locations.

Each student serves as a part of a team with a recognized team leader. The team leader is a CBU staff, faculty member, alumni, or a local church minister. Most team leaders have overseas experience and all will participate in special training designed to equip them for their leadership role. We ask the team leader to always know where all of their team members are, while requiring the buddy system – meaning no one on the team will ever go anywhere by oneself.

Over the years, CBU has established close relationships with our site coordinators on the field. We only send teams to places we have been and spent time with the missionaries. The missionaries, in the city where your son or daughter will be serving, know specifically what they will do in the event of an emergency. This information is passed on to the team leader and students if and when it is deemed appropriate by the missionary. In addition, all ISP participants are covered by quality medical insurance while overseas.

Finally, and I think most importantly, as believers we place our lives in the hands of a loving and caring God. Ultimately, He is the only one who can protect us. Though it is appropriate to pray for Him to keep us safe, His greatest desire is for us to obey. That does not mean we will always be safe. Regardless of how unstable circumstances around us may seem, our mandate for reaching the world with the Good News of Jesus has not changed. He is still the same, and His love never fails. As believers in Christ, our primary responsibility is to trust and follow him – even to the ends of the earth.

"Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." Psalm 46:10

If you have further questions or would like to talk with me, please feel free to call me at 951-343-5018.

Sincerely,



Kristen K. White, M.A.
Director of Global Mobilization





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Applicant's Name: _____

I have discussed our son's/daughter's plan to apply for United States Projects and/or International Service Projects with CBU. I realize that our son/daughter is responsible for making his/her own decisions. The Office of Mobilization is simply giving him/her the opportunity to participate as a volunteer.

Yes No

I understand that CBU works through the Southern Baptist Convention and will seek to provide for our son's/daughter's safety and welfare. In addition, I have discussed with our son/daughter the risks that are always involved in travel – domestically and/or internationally.

Yes No

Since my son/daughter is of legal age and responsible for his/her own decisions, I understand that this Advice Form is not a permission slip. This form is simply one way my student is following the Biblical principle of honoring his/her parent by seeking my advice, feedback, and support.

Yes No

Comments:

Parent or Guardian's Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

The **due date** for all forms is **Monday, October 10, 2011.**

Please return form to:
California Baptist University
ATTN: Office of Mobilization #1146
8432 Magnolia Avenue
Riverside, CA 92504

Forms may also be submitted via fax: 951-343-4509 or email: isp@calbaptist.edu